Revival of sick units

884. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks and financial institutions in the country are not sharing their responsibility for the revival of the sick units in the country;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also expressed that the burden imposed on banks for the revival of the sick units should be shared by the financial institutions also; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what further steps are proposed to be taken to put responsibility on banks as well as financial institutions to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Public Sector banks and financial institutions are already assisting in the revival of sick, but potentially viable industrial units, keeping in view the guidelines laid by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. They also share responsibilities as appropriate, in terms of the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Speical Provisions) Act, 1985

Drug smuggling

885. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Novel ways of drug smuggling unearthed" as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 18th October, 1988;

(b) whether the Enforcement agencies have found heroin hidden inside some equipments; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to unearth gangs of drug smugglers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the recent seizures of drugs at Bombay, novel methods of concealing the heroin and smuggling through a sealed tin of pine-apple slices, car fuel filters, an artificial leg, inside a T.V. picture tube, etc. by drug traffickers has come to the notice of the enforcement authorities.

Government have launched various aggressive countermeasures which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug-related crimes, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers. The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychoropic substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum of 2 years for drug-related crimes. A number of operations are also conducted against drug traffickers in the country by targeting intelligence on them by the enforcement agencies. All these are intended to immobilise drug traffickers effectively. The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.